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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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MESSAGE OF THE President of the United States.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In transmitting to you the fourth annual message of the present term, I congratulate you and my countrymen on the favor of Providence by which we have been blessed for the past year with peace at home, peace abroad, and a general prosperity vouchsafed to but few peoples.

THE BOSTON FIRE.

With the exception of the recent devastating fire, which swept from the earth with a breath, as it were, millions of accumulated wealth in the city of Boston, there has been no overshadowing calamity within the year to record. It is gratifying to note how, like their fellow-citizens of the city of Chicago, under similar circumstances a year earlier, the citizens of Boston are rallying under their misfortunes, and with the prospect that their energy and perseverance will overcome all obstacles, and restore the same prosperity soon that they would had no disaster befallen them. Otherwise we have been free from pestilence, war and calamities, which often overtake nations, and as far as human judgment can penetrate the future no cause seems to exist to threaten our present peace.

ALABAMA CLAIMS ARBITRATION.

When Congress adjourned in June last, a question had been raised by Great Britain, and was then pending, which, for the time, seriously imperiled the settlement by friendly arbitration of the grave differences between this government and that of Her Britannic Majesty, which, by the Treaty of Washington, had been referred to the Tribunal of Arbitration which had met at Geneva, in Switzerland. The arbitrators, however, disposed of the question which had jeopardized the whole of the treaty, and threatened to involve the two nations in most unhappy relations toward each other, in a manner entirely satisfactory to this government and in accordance with the views and the policy which it had maintained. The Tribunal, which had convened at Geneva on the 15th December, reassembled on the 14th day of September last, on which day, having availed itself of the discretionary power given to it by the treaty to award a sum in gross, or to require the determination of the sum to be paid in detail, by a majority of not more than one, decreed that the sum of fifteen millions five hundred thousand dollars in gold as the indemnity to be paid to Great Britain by the United States for the satisfaction of all the claims referred to its consideration. This decision happily removed the only obstacle to a friendship between the two governments, and in connection with another act made by the Tribunal, disavowing under a reference to him by the same treaty, leaves those two governments without a shadow upon their friendly relations. It is the sincere hope, may, for the ever remain equally unclouded. The report of the agent of the United States appointed to attend the Geneva Tribunal, accompanied by the protocols, the proceedings of the Tribunal, the arguments and the opinions of both governments, the award of the Tribunal and the opinions given by the several arbitrators, will be communicated herewith. I have caused to be transmitted to the heads of the friendly powers, who were invited with the joint request made to them under the treaty, the thanks of this government for the appointments which the arbitrators made by them respectively, and also my thanks to the eminent personages named by them, and my appreciation of their impartiality, justice and great ability with which they discharged their arduous and responsible duties. Her Majesty's government has communicated to me its appreciation by Her Majesty of the ability and indefatigable industry proved by the Count Sclopis, the arbitrator named on the part of this government, in the various conferences and written discussions of the Tribunal. I cordially unite with Her Majesty in this appreciation. It is due to the agent of the United States before the Tribunal to record my high appreciation of the marked ability, untiring industry and sound prudence and discretion with which he has conducted the very responsible and delicate duties committed to him, as it is also due to the learned and eminent counsel who attended the Tribunal on the part of the government, to express my sense of the talents and wisdom which they brought to bear in the attainment of the result thus happily reached.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE MONEY.

It will be the province of Congress to provide for the distribution, among those entitled, of the money to it, of their respective shares of the money to be paid. Although the sum awarded is not payable until a year from the date of the award, it is deemed advisable that no time be lost in making a proper examination of the several claims, and the identification may be due. I consequently recommend the creation of a Board of Commissioners for this purpose.

THE SAN JUAN BOUNDARY.

By the thirty-fourth article of the treaty of Washington, the respective claims of the United States and of Great Britain, in their construction of the treaty of the 15th of June, 1846, defining the boundary line between their respective territories, were submitted to the impartial award of His Majesty, the Emperor of Germany, to decide which of those claims is in accordance with the true interpretation of the treaty of 1846. His Majesty, the Emperor of Germany, having been pleased to undertake the arbitration so kindly tendered by both of this Government and of the people of the United States, the case, duly prepared on the part of each, has been devoted to the consideration of this long-pending difficulty. I have, therefore, the satisfaction to be able to communicated to His Majesty, Mr. Bancroft, the representative of this Government near the Court of Berlin, conducted the case and prepared the statement on the part of the United States, with an ability that his past service justified the public in expecting at his hands. I am happy to add that the case of the agent of Her Majesty has given rise to the discussion between the two governments, as the Minister of Great Britain, when the construction now pronounced unfounded was first advanced, and as the agent and representative of Her Majesty appointed to present the case and to receive the award, he has been associated in the consideration of the questions, and in every stage has manifested a patriotic zeal and earnestness in the maintainance of the claim of the United States. He is entitled to the thanks of this government for the able manner in which he has conducted the case and prepared the statement on the part of the United States, and for the

...mercial.

. DECEMBER 7, 1872.

Among the numerous movements of the time in the direction of political reform, is the recommendation of a number of Republican State committees in favor of hereafter nominating candidates for Congress by a direct popular vote, without the intervention of caucuses or conventions, a plurality determining the choice where no person has a majority of the votes cast.

Some of the New York papers are again, in view of the unbridled license and lawlessness which prevail in that city, discussing the possible necessity of lynch-law. One or two more murders, and it is evident that the people will not wait for the District Attorney. Perhaps, however, it would be better, as it would certainly be more logical, to make a determined effort to enforce the law before going into the wholesale business of breaking it. The people of that criminal-ridden city are themselves largely responsible for the immunity which its dangerous classes enjoy.

The movement for a Constitutional Amendment, giving to the people a direct vote for President and Vice President, as a substitute for the present system, is likely to receive considerable impetus from the death of Mr. Greeley; since the decease of a defeated candidate before the vote of the Presidential electors is cast, naturally suggests the possibility of the death of the elected candidate before such an event, and shows the dangerously indirect method by which the President is now chosen. The only effective remedy would seem to lie in the abolition of the Electoral College, and the substitution of a direct vote of the people.

It is not necessary to impugn the motives of Senator Sumner in the introduction of his resolution to expunge from the army register and from the colors of the various regiments of the army the names of the 6,000 men who basely participated during the rebellion, but it is quite clear that he has not taken the right road to reinstate himself in the esteem and confidence of the people. The Massachusetts Senator is not more ready than they to forget the old wrongs and sponge out the bloody memories of the war. Ever since the surrender of the Confederate armies they have shown their readiness to forgive everything as soon as they could secure the guarantees for the future. That they are not exactly see how—even if there were wounds yet to be healed—the proposition of that Senator would tend to the accomplishment of such a result. If the war for the preservation of the country was wrong, of course the whole complexion of the case is altered. It is hardly probable, however, that even Senator Sumner, entangled as he is in the meshes of his hatred toward the great leader who brought the war to a successful close, will go so far as to take such a position. In the past the people of the United States have honored him. Let him now have the good sense to respect their judgment against him, and observe a decorous behavior.

At last there has been found a Judge in New York possessed of sufficient courage to deny the motion for a stay of proceedings in the case of a murderer sentenced to be executed to-morrow. It is to be hoped that this judicial refusal to interfere with the due course of justice may serve as a precedent in like cases hereafter. The Commercial, as is well known, is not an advocate of the death penalty, but it nevertheless believes in the rigorous enforcement of the laws which now exist, to deter criminals—is the certainty of detection and punishment. Where the system of law is so organized and administrated as to make it nearly impossible for a man who commits crime to escape punishment, crime itself will be comparatively rare; just as it will be common in almost exactly the ratio of the criminal's chances of getting off free. Thus, in consequence of the fact that in England all the lives of society and the property of the State are pledged to the detection and punishment of law-breakers, crimes, more particularly capital crimes, are less frequent in London with its three millions of inhabitants than in New York with less than a million. So, too, it is said that in the populous German city of Frankfort-on-the-Main, not a single murder has been committed for nearly a hundred years. It is certain that this exemption does not arise from any intrinsic superiority of the German over the American nature; it doubtless springs from the fact that the laws are framed for the express purpose of securing the punishment of criminals, and are inflexibly administered with the same intent; just as the looped and windowed ruggedness of our own laws is one of the chief causes of the unbridled license and lawlessness which prevail, especially in our large cities. With reference to the particular case in question, it is to be hoped the action of the judge may lead to a revival of the reign of justice and order in that criminal-hounded metropolis.

DISCOVERIES EXPECTED.

To persons who take any real interest in the progress of geographical knowledge, prospects of discovery so important as to be exciting, are just now open in two directions at least. In view of the energy and the intelligent enthusiasm with which not a single nation but several nations are at present engaged in the work of Arctic exploration, it seems hardly probable that the secrets of the extreme north will remain hidden much longer. Two or three European expeditions, adequately equipped, are annually their researches under the direction of men of science, familiar with all the data derivable from the researches of former explorers, may be confidently expected within the next eighteen months or two years either to ascertain the real character of the Polar Sea, or to make it certain that the sea is inaccessible to or by ships. This, however, is only one of the important directions in which the expeditions have been designed. Among Americans a more lively interest is naturally taken in the voyage of their countryman, Captain Hall, whose long sojourn among the Esquimaux would seem to have given him peculiar qualifications for the enterprise, and whose original ideas as to the right method of prosecuting the work have raised hopes which will be entertained until acknowledged failure shall have proved their futility. Those who doubt or deny the utility of these polar expeditions, hardly take sufficient account of the character which they imply in the adventurers. It is simply the character in its best development, which distinguishes the superior from the inferior races, and it has given to the former the dominion of the world. While the character exists such exhibitions of daring and hardihood are inevitable, and they will cease only with the deterioration of the class of men who thus find an outlet for and give expression to their natural energies.

But still more interesting prospects of discovery are presented in the preparations making for the exploration of Central Africa. The precise whereabouts of the English king's expedition under Sir Samuel Baker is not known, but when last heard from indirectly, it was believed to be near Lake Tanganyika. Having arrived at that place from the north, if Sir Samuel Baker lives to reach the eastern coast he will be able to give most valuable information concerning a region of the country heretofore enveloped in almost complete darkness. Concerning the country lying several hundred miles to the west of the lake just mentioned, Livingstone will be able to tell nearly all that most people would care to know, and now no less than three expeditions are in preparation, of which the object is to explore the vast extent of country between the western coast and the tracts which Livingstone is traversing. The travels of the German Dr. Schweinfurth on the head waters of the Nile, in connection with facts otherwise known, render it certain to geographers that Livingstone's Lualaba is not the great river of Egypt. It is thought very likely to be the Congo. At any rate, the Congo still remains to be explored to its sources, and this is the enterprise in which a German expedition and an English expedition will almost certainly soon engage. The first of these expeditions has been projected by the Geographical Society of Berlin, which already has money enough on hand to defray the expenses. Dr. Petermann, the President of the Society, is himself a distinguished African traveler, having in 1857 projected the exploration of the Congo and having made a tour in the interior by way of preparation for the greater work, which circumstances prevented him from then accomplishing. Stimulated by German example and by other influences, the English are pushing the expedition which may secure for them the credit of having completed the researches of Livingstone. A rich Frenchman is also reported to have already sailed for the West African coast, for the purpose of organizing an expedition which shall anticipate both England and Germany, and seize for France the coveted glory of having determined the issue of the great river Lualaba, which in Livingstone's narrative has interested the world so deeply. As the outcome of these several enterprises undertaken in the interest of knowledge, it is reasonable to expect that the entire central parts of Africa will, in the course of the next two or three years, be so completely explored as entirely to change the familiar aspect of the map. This, however, is likely to be one of the least important results of these researches, as the increase of knowledge will in all likelihood be soon followed by industrial, commercial and other practical effects, important to all the world. Livingstone's discoveries have already doomed the slave-trade, which has been the curse of Africa for thousands of years.

A DEVILISH TRADE.

The captain and several of the crew of a ship engaged in the South Pacific Coolie trade were lately condemned to death in Sydney, New South Wales, and the sentence, if not already carried into effect, will certainly be executed. British adventurers seeking wealth by raising cotton in Feejee and some other islands of the South seas, have long found the want of laborers the great difficulty with which they have to contend. They, or others for them, have, therefore, been instituting several years to sail about among the numerous islands of that part of the world in search of "hands." In giving an account of their method of operation to their unsophisticated countrymen at home they have been wont to represent themselves as mere contractors who, by the pecuniary inducements held out, prevailed on the barbarian islanders to leave their homes for a fixed and limited period, and become cultivators of the ground. To people who from reading or observation knew something about the character and habits of the islanders the statement seemed improbable, not to say incredible from the first, and English missionaries who had spent many years in some of the islands referred to, soon began to send home remonstrances against the cotton planters' mode of "stocking" their cotton lands. They charged that these navigators in search of laborers were really manstealers of the worst and most relentless description, who carried on a traffic which involved hideous cruelties and rendered the grossest kind of touched inaccessible to Christian influence. But among the ruling powers in London there existed a strong prejudice against missionary reports concerning all subjects pertaining to profit and loss. It was alleged that they were pious sentimentalists, certainly chickenhearted and probably weakminded. The trouble they had caused the government in the West Indies and especially their inability or their refusal to appreciate the energy, decision and high administrative qualities of Captain Eyre were recalled to their disadvantage, and little if any attention was paid to their protests. At the time of the murder of Bishop Patteson verified once more the saying of Sydney Smith concerning the efficacy of an episcopal death in arresting the attention of the British official mind. The bishop's murder was an act of revenge provoked by coolie traders, who had disguised one of their own number in a dress resembling the good bishop's for the purpose of enticing Islanders on board their ship, in which they were carried off into slavery.

The South Pacific coolie trade is now thoroughly understood in England, and the public indignation which it has awakened is not likely to subside before it shall have completely suppressed the nefarious business. In comparison with it there is no exaggeration in saying that American slavery, or even West Indian slavery, in its worst days, was a heavenly institution. The foreign or African slave trade, with its "middle passage," is the only form of human oppression and outrage that affords a parallel to the atrocities which have become common in this coolie traffic. On the voyage of the ship "Carl," whose master and crew have lately been condemned at Sydney, as mentioned above, things were done which it would be unbecoming to detail where no practical result was to be effected by the repetition. The narrative, fully attested in a court of justice, is such a chapter of horrors as no person of ordinary sensibility would choose to read. England has the effect of the Sydney trial cannot but quicken its efforts, already energetic, to put an end to a business for which the British government was directly responsible at a time when it presumed to remonstrate with other powers against evils calling much more loudly for interposition.

Pavements for Streets.

A Cincinnati correspondent writes, making a tour of the United States for the purpose of examining the pavements in the various large cities, and looking into other matters of municipal economy. They make a report, from time to time, of observations of some facts of interest to dwellers in cities. The Guidet pavement, with which Broadway, New York, is paved, costs six dollars per square yard, and has not cost a dollar for repairs since the first season it was first laid. They also favorably notice the Belgian block pavement, which they found in New York. Wooden pavements of all kinds have proved failures the intersections are very noisy.

With reference to the various plans either proposed or in use, in and out of Congress, for the revival of American shipping, Congressman Hale, of Maine, in whose district the ship building interest is considerable, believes that American ship-builders have seen their last days. He says that the present constituents engaged in that business are already beginning to receive orders and requests for propositions to build new ships. This promised revival he attributes in a measure to the partial failure of iron for use in ships adopted for certain uses, and partly to the demand for ships in the grain trade on the Pacific coast. It is held that some commodities, when transported in iron ships, are caused to sweat, and are thus spoiled, and that the famous, but the famous "one-horse shay," are liable to be broken up all at once, whenever a disaster occurs, giving less chance for salvage. It is believed that American ship-builders are now destined to see more prosperous times.

The traveler Palgrave, writing to *Nature* from Trebizond, on the shores of the Euxine, gives an account of his tour last summer in Northeastern Anatolia, over a rarely visited tract of country, the valley of the Chorok or Harpagus for 120 miles, and the mountain lands up to the frontier of Russian Georgia. Although the mountain scenery, the grand vestiges of glacial action, and crossed mountains as high up as 11,000 feet. The rocks were generally sarassic and granite interrupted volcanic outbreaks. Vere-himbek Dagh rises above the plain to the height of Matterhorn, and is 12,500 feet high and snow clad. He found evidences of the elevation of the Black Sea coast from 12 to 15 feet in post glacial times. The whole account will gladden the heart of Agassiz, the glacial philosopher.

A steamship recently arrived at New York from Tangarog, in the Black Sea. She brought a cargo of Donskoi or Don Valley wool, which was purchased and chartered expressly for that purpose. This is a long staple wool of peculiarly fine texture, and has no equal in a certain class of manufactures. The whole clip of this wool was bought by a Philadelphia house, and in order to gain possession, a steamship was chartered, sent to Tangarog, loaded and has arrived. The principle aimed at in this enterprise is one that shows a breadth of purpose and vigor of execution that would be considered creditable anywhere, and proves that the people of that city are by no means so totally given over to "counting their thumbs" as rival cit.es represent.

The census reports show a steady increase of the German and Scandinavian elements in our immigration, and both of these classes are welcome additions to our population. The Swedes, Norwegians and Danes have proved themselves the best class of immigrants of all nations who have found their way to our shores, have made such rapid progress in the industrial arts or other avocations by which they have devoted themselves, that their reputation is established and their industry, economy, thrift, their industrious frugal, and temperate Germans, whose numbers are also increasing from year to year, are better known and appreciated as individualities, but the latter are beginning to speak for themselves, and, in time, they too will make their mark upon American society.

With reference to the recommendations of the President's message concerning the California and Australian Steamship line, it should be remembered that the population of Australia, the future great Republic, is composed of the most enterprising people, with a commerce of $400,000 yearly. This trade is naturally ours, since we have built the great highway to the Pacific, a short route to the East. But our Pacific coast will want a line of steamers, if we do not pass the opportunity of gaining to our people the immense advantages which would accrue to us from controlling the rich trade of the Pacific, the increase of which from year to year is perfectly marvelous.

An important decision was the other day rendered in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court at Harrisburgh, the principle of which is of wide application. It appears that bonds issued by many counties of that State to railroads have not been stamped according to law, and the United States brought suit to enforce the penalty. The suits against Buchanan and Jackson counties were made as test cases. The defendants demurred on the ground that as public corporations the counties were not chargeable with intent to evade the law, and were not liable. The court has sustained the demurrer. Nothing has been said to be extremely injurious to the nerves of many children, and to leave evil influences for life. In addition to this, the use of slates is attended with many other objections.

A New Hampshire man has just had a tumor successfully removed from the under side of his tongue as large as an orange; and weighing four and a half ounces. It had been growing for twenty years, and crowded the tongue so much that it protruded so as to make it difficult for him to breathe or talk.

St. Louis seems to be, on the whole, in a healthy financial condition. The Mayor's semi-annual message to the Council is just published, and states as the expenditures of the six months $2,216,671 (a) as the receipts $2,215,387 (b), balance cash on hand, $147,247 63. The bonded debt of the city is $13,469,500; floating debt, $425,614 96, most of which has been incurred for public improvements of permanent character. The entire valuation of the city is about $250,000,000.

New Haven has just established a working-woman's home, comprising a restaurant, reading-room and sewing-room. There are in every city such resorts for young men, but none for young women to make them attractive. Such an institution is as much needed everywhere for women, who are deprived of the comforts of home, and shut out, in a great measure, from the recreations of society.

Troy, New York, rejoices in the possession of a cow with a history. She is a large, fine-looking animal, and exactly like any cow, excepting that from the right shoulder, near the top of the neck, a large protuberance, nearly two feet wide and three feet in length, appears. The history of this protuberance it divides, and forms two legs, each with hoofs.

The population of the globe is usually estimated at one thousand millions. A new and careful estimate, based on the latest data, has been lately published at Gotha by two competent German statisticians, who calculate the present number of the earth's inhabitants at thirteen hundred and seventy-seven millions of souls, which is probably the nearest attainable approximation to the truth.

Canada papers say that the trapping season for fine peltries is now well-advanced, but furs are not coming to market in large quantities. Trappers are out on all the streams, and a few of them have made returns. Fur traders find that the Indians are now as well posted respecting the value of peltries as the traders are, and refuse to sell except at full market prices.

The Boston *Commercial Bulletin* sees no room for supposing that the Boston boot and shoe trade for the coming season will be less than usual. The total shipments from Boston for the year to date in cases against 1,176,681 for the corresponding time last year.

A committee of the Chicago Board of Trade have been making investigations which lead them to report that the railroads have been guilty of gross frauds shippers to understate the amount, thereby cheating the carrier out of freight and putting honest shippers at a disadvantage. The committee had a number of car loads weighed at Boston, Lawrence, Mass., and other points of delivery. Of 622 cars one was exactly right, fifty-three weighed 27,402 pounds less than stated in the bill of lading, while 568 weighed 1,000 pounds each.

From the first of June to the middle of November 70,000 head of Texas cattle were shipped at Wichita (on the Arkansas river), filling 3,200 cars of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad.

The making of the new dress for the enlisted men of the regular army is progressing with all possible dispatch at the great clothing and equipment arsenal at Schuylkill, but it is not expected that the troops will get into their new trappings before next spring.

The London *Post* so reported a meeting in favor of Mr. Gladstone's bill to make it so that the good of the greatest number was the measure of the national "meal," which was not so bad a misprint for "weal" as it might have been.

The fact has been recently restated that but one vote was cast against Monroe in the Electoral College in 1821, and that the vote was given to John Quincy Adams. It is now stated that Monroe would have been unanimously re-elected but for one New England elector, who was chosen with the understanding he should vote for him, but, when the Electoral College met, went for Adams, then Monroe's Secretary of State, because, he said: "John Quincy Adams had been elected four years before and ought to be President in name as well as in fact."

Street cars and regulations concerning them have become so important an element in city life that people generally will be interested in an important decision affecting the rights of passengers. In the Superior Court of New York, on Monday, it was decided that a company is liable for damages inflicted on a passenger wrongfully put off on a conductor.

New Jersey city has an establishment where Beau Brummels can hire a clean shirt, white tie and gloves, and a dress suit at a moderate price per night.

A contract has just been signed between the Duke of Wellington and the Belgian government, by which the capital sum inscribed on the Grand Livre of Public Debt is agreed to be converted into a fixed annual income of 50,000 francs. This was the sum voted to the "Iron Duke" by the Belgians after the battle of Waterloo, and which was to be contributed to the Duke's heirs for three generations.

One of the highest authorities on all subjects connected with dye stuffs and artificial colors, the unrivalled Professor Chevreul, the French chemist, in a recent paper on the classification of dyes he mentions, that while the blue colors obtained from indigo are permanent, those from Prussian blue will not resist the action of soap, though equally unaffected by light and air.

The statement of the Auditor General of the Dominion of Canada shows that there are in circulation Dominion and Provincial notes to the amount of $1,113,355 39, against which specie is held to the amount of $2,612,850 50; debentures, $720,000; certificates of deposit, $1,410,525 09.

The Japanese rapidly become cosmopolitan in their tastes. The ambassadors now in England have acquired a liking for beer. They were lately taken by Sir Henry Parkes to the brewery of Messrs. Allsopp, at Burton-on-Trent. The chief of having announced his preference for the he was presented with a butt of it. I butts about accepting it.

It is said that the Chicago expressmen, which performed such herculean tasks during the prevalence of the hippothinorhea, stimulted thereto by copious libations of gin and ginger, has acquired an insatiate appetite for liquors, and declines bran mash not seasoned with stuff that cheers and inebriates. He has become a confirmed drunkard. The question for debate is, if he gets tight in a saloon has his owner a remedy under the State law?

This is the way the West grows. Says the Lincoln (Neb.) *Journal*: "Three years ago a single stage coach carried all the travelers between Lincoln and the Missouri river, and was seldom overloaded. Now, four different lines of railroads runs two trains a day each, and all are well patronized."

Boston papers note several instances of sales of land in the burnt district of that city where the advance in price since the fire has amounted to twenty per cent. and upward; and they assert that the straightening and widening of the streets and other proposed improvements will greatly enhance the value of property throughout the entire section swept over by the conflagration.

The marriage epidemic, which, like the horse disease, has spread all over the country, rages even in the department of Washington. Nearly every room in the State, Treasury and other departments has several prospective brides.

Liberian colonization is not in all cases successful. The Norfolk *Virginian* mentions the arrival there of twenty-two colored people in three months, all in search of a bit composed of brass wire, and communicating with an electric pile, these capricious animals are driven about the Jardin d'Acclimatation. Directly they receive a dose of the voltaic current, which reduces them to obedience. The inventor of this system is already able to drive tandem.

The Savannah *Republican* says: "Advices from Ocala speak of a project on foot for constructing a Florida, Atlantic and Gulf ship-canal and railroad. Our informant states that an examination is going on of the obstructions at the mouth of the Withlacoochee river, the results of which we are promised. The necessity for a canal across Florida is urged on the ground of immunity from the perils and delays of navigation around the cape, because of the ever-forming coral reefs. The project is thought practicable."

By a recent government order in France all patent medicines and cosmetics are to be subjected to careful chemical analysis, and the sale prohibited of such as are found to contain any deleterious ingredient. In America more harm is done by the perpetual ingestion of poisonous nostrums than in the whole of Europe put together.

It was reported recently that Japan was preparing to attack Corea. Late dispatches indicate that the latter nation is the victim of a more terrible calamity than war. A fearful famine prevails, and multitudes are dying of starvation.

The American Institute of Architects contemplate sending some specimens of American architecture to the Vienna Exposition. Let them grace up all the Mansard roofs in the country and ship them across the water.

See what the iron industry has done for the West. The census of 1850 shows the product of manufactures in these States thus: Ohio, $269,713,600; Indiana, $108,617,378; Illinois, $205,620,672; Missouri $206,218,429; Michigan, $11,394,676; Wisconsin, $77,-241,226.

A national convention of stockbreeders was held in Indianapolis last week. The attendance was large and included representatives from all sections and nearly all the States of the Union. Many of the delegates were from Canada, others from the Pacific States.

A number of French dramatic writers are engaged in an effort to establish a copyright treaty between France and the United States.

A scientist, who has made investigation into the breaking of iron rails during frosty weather, considers that good iron is not affected by frost, but that poor iron does suffer loss of strength. He holds, however, that the extreme rigidity of the earth beneath the rails in cold weather offers a better explanation of breaks than the effects of mere frost upon iron.

A Cincinnati preacher thinks that Boston's great sin was a prohibitory tariff on rum, which fostered her self-idolatry, and her exportation of rum to Africa. If he is right, Cincinnati is in very serious danger indeed, for she is as self-idolatrous as Boston, and sends off much whisky, and whisky is as bad a thing as rum.

The New York *World* bagins to see it. Speaking of railway and municipal corruption, it says: "If the State government cannot cope successfully with the twin monsters who threaten its liberty, we shall presently be on the high road to Federal control of all the railroads, and to Federal interference with our municipalities with the assent of the people."

Chicago boasts of a leading contractor who can number real estate. He writes, and his check has the figure from another, yet can accurately estimate the number of brick for a wall, or shingles for a roof, of given dimensions, and the cost of construction.

A couple of mice were recently caught in Rhode Island in a curious manner. In an old table, they crept into a bottle which lay on its side, partly underneath of the sensitive contents that they couldn't get out, and were captured.

The following statement gives a summary of the wrecks on the Long Island and New Jersey coasts in the season of 1871-72: Number of vessels wrecked, 22; total value of vessels wrecked, so far as reported, $227,300; total value of cargoes wrecked, so far as reported, $281,800; total value of property saved, $508,200; total number of lives lost, 20. On the entire line of this terrible coast, upon which twenty-two vessels were wrecked, not one life was lost.

There is a man in the Missouri Legislature for Platte county, who spends his leisure prison hours in writing learned articles for magazines and translating the love songs of the old Minne-singers into English verse.

A general war is being waged against the use of slates in the schools of Germany. There is scarcely one sound more offensive to the human ear than the grating of the pencil on the slate, and when this is multiplied by numbers in the school room, it is said to be extremely injurious to the nerves of many children, and to leave evil influences for life. In addition to this, the use of slates is attended with many other objections.

The fact that the attendance in the schools of Virginia increased over three hundred per cent. within two months after the adoption of the new constitution by the Virginia freedmen. In 1870 the total number attending schools, public and private, was 50,778, and in 1871 the number was 157,841, a per cent. of increase in the white population. Education is the great want of the South.

A singular scene was lately witnessed on the platform in San Francisco. A phrenologist and a penitentiary bird gave a joint entertainment. The professor of bumps illustrated his subject by the convicts heads, pointing out the organs of theft, lust and crimes, and added some suggestions upon prison discipline, and finally asked for contributions to send to his aged parents who were starving in England. He professed to be a genuine "Ticket of Leave Man" from Australia.

The Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company has had a party of about thirty men engaged in exploring their lands. Recent reports from the party show the discovery of several large tracts of very superior pine timber, and also of large tracts of hardwooded country. The prospects now are that as large tracts of as pure iron ore will be found as have been found anywhere on the borders of Lake Superior.

A New Industry.

The Austrian *Exhibition Gazette* calls attention to a new and important industry, the preparation of rabbit hair with wool and cotton in weaving textile fabrics. The shorter hairs, which are incapable of being woven, are readily furnished by felt hat manufacturers at three dollars a pound. When properly prepared the hair is said to be very like sheep yarn, which is said in no way to be inferior to wool. If all that the Austrian journal says on the subject be true, the rabbit is destined to play a very important business. No animal is better adapted to raising on a large scale than the rabbit; they multiply almost as rapidly as white mice, and are not confined to any particular climate. It is rather remarkable that this use of the hair has not been thought of before, particularly when we consider how many hundred millions rabbits are annually destroyed. The meat of the rabbit is agreeable and nourishing, and the skins have long been in demand. All this tends to indicate that an important industry will grow out of the successful introduction of rabbit-hair weaving in all countries.

A Divorce Case Heard, the Petition Granted and the Lady Remarried in Twelve Minutes.

Indiana and Illinois must look to their laurels, for Kansas has entered the lists to contest with them the palm of rapidity in divorce proceedings. The neophyte has made astonishing progress, and we are informed that in a recent case the cause was heard, the divorce granted, and the lady remarried to "a confused and blushing groom" in the short space of twelve minutes. There cannot be any mistake about the matter, for the Kansas newspaper, which bursts into magniloquent verse at least three times a week, assures us that "the lady was timed by Judge Bliss's watch, and we have no reason to believe that it ran fast." No wonder the exulting married male humanity of Kansas are in ecstacies, and confidently anticipate a change of venue in the present case and on the divorce question which will equal the foregoing."

The Chicago Committee of Five, to whom was intrusted the duty of investigating the cause of the increased prevalence of crime in that city, have submitted their report. They divide the causes of crime into two classes—the *predisposing* and the *exciting*. The first class is thus classified in a paragraph, and the latter is limited to the single element of habitual drinking. They state only the average judgment of the civilized world when they assert that the habitual liquor drinker is more incompetent than all other causes for the spread of crime. But in stopping at this point, to our mind, the committee have failed to reach the subject in the profoundest of its causes. Other causes, some of which need the additional incitement of liquor to become active, while in the case of others it is not necessary. Alcohol arouses the slumbering demon, but frequently it is the demon himself who prompts the question, "Shall we kill him?" Such is the case in calm no share. Fear of punishment is the main thing to keep down crime, and lax administration of the laws and justice must lead to increased deeds of vice.

It is stated that the most marked feature of the book trade at the present moment is the large and increasing demand for scientific works and periodicals. It is not that books upon recondite matters are sought after as eagerly as novels, but they are eagerly read. In the nature of the case this could not occur, as few persons have the requisite logical training to attack such questions. The more absurse and the higher the literature will always remain the luxury of the few, and not the necessity of the many. The scientific works now generally purchased are those of popular character—that is, those written by persons of scientific attainments on questions around which some human interest lingers. Darwin's theory of the origin of species is the day are those of the scientists, and if the present tide keeps rising their works will soon be as widely read than the productions of any other class of book-makers, the poets and the novelists excepted.

According to the Portage Lake (Wis.) *Gazette* the obscure question of the existence of coal in the north shore of Lake Superior bids fair to receive elucidation. That paper says: "The unaccountable mystery that has surrounded the claimed discovery of tin upon the north shore of Lake Superior, and the unavailable notations that have existed between the discoverer and certain parties to whom he had sold interests, will, it is believed, soon culminate in a certain knowledge of either the worthlessness or value of the find. A party of gentlemen representing large interests in the property, together with several experts and press representatives, started last week with the original discoverer, and his property last week with the original discoverer, and his property to fully satisfy them of the genuineness of his claim."

The fifteen States washed by the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri rivers have an aggregate wealth, according to the last census, of $10,819,170,914. The population of these States is nearly 17,000,000, represented in Congress by 129 members of the lower house. Some of the Western journals propose to try their strength in order to compel the government to improve all the rivers washing these States.

According to General Myer's report of the operations of the Signal Service Department during the past year, seventy per cent. of the predictions have been verified.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 3, 1872.

The House of Congress will omit its usual recess, on account of the funeral obsequies, though several of the most distinguished Senators and Representatives will be absent attending the obsequies. Senator Conkling intended to-day to move an adjournment until Thursday, but was prevented by the unexpected close of the session, which cut off the motion. It is doubtful if the motion could have prevailed, the Senate having decided in several similar cases, including that of Edward Everett, to suspend its business only on account of funerals of eminent citizens actually holding office at the time of death. Had Senator Fenton's motion been received, Mr. Sumner would have proposed it in the following previously prepared remarks:

Mr. President—I have been requested to second this motion. One word, if you please. A funeral will take place to-morrow on which the eyes of the nation will rest. While innumerable bear a shrouded grief and the people learn the unstability of life and the commandment of charity, it is proper for the representatives of the nation to suspend labor that they, too, may be penetrated by the lesson of the day. More for them than the illustrious dead is this needed. He is gone beyond any earthly call. We remain. Duties are always for the living, and now standing at the open grave of Horace Greeley we are admonished to forget the strife of party and to remember only truth, country and mankind, to which his honest life was devoted. In other days the horse and armor of the departed chieftain have been buried in the grave where he reposed. So, too, may we bury the badges, if not the badges of the past. Then, indeed, will there be a victory for the dead which all will share.

The Caucus of Senators.

The caucus, this morning, of Republican Senators who supported the candidate of the Philadelphia Convention occupied less than an hour, and was much more serious and harmonious than those of last session. None of the Liberal Republican Senators were present, Trumbull having not yet returned to the city. Sumner and Schurz having not arrived at the capital, and Fenton and Rice remaining quietly in the chamber, writing letters while the caucus was in progress. The Committee to Revise the Standing Committees consists of Senators Freelinghuysen, Stuart, Ramsey, Lewis and Morrill, of Maine, and will probably report to-morrow or Thursday. The discussion in the caucus was altogether in favor of placing the Liberals and Democrats on the same footing as members of the minority, and the report of the committee will carry into effect this sentiment. The new assignments will place Edmunds at the head of the Committee on Judiciary, Pratt on that of Pensions, and Windom on that of Contingent Expenses.

Legislation Under the Washington Treaty.

The bill to carry into effect the provisions of the treaty of Washington, relating to the fisheries, has been made the special order in the House for January 2d, and will undoubtedly be passed without serious opposition. The success of the Geneva arbitration and the favorable issue of every question thus far arising under the treaty, have effected perceptibly the change of sentiment among the members of the House, and with the favorable recommendation of the President make the proposed enactment morally certain. Only two members of the House are directly interested in opposition to the pending bill, and these will be likely to admit without a protest legislation which they cannot prevent. The question of bounty or indemnity of fishermen who will suffer by the inforcement of the treaty will probably come up later in the session, though with no very substantial grounds for hope of favorable action. The State Department has made no communication to Congress relative to the disposal of the Geneva award.

The Release of Currency.

The resolution of Mr. Randell, adopted by the House, will necessitate a full statement from the Secretary of the Treasury regarding his claim to sufficient authority to increase the circulation of National Bank notes in Illinois. Gen. Garfield intimated that the reissue in October of four and half millions was not the only case of the kind, and the resolution was, on his suggestion, made general. It is understood that there have been at least two other such reissues, amounting, with the one in October, to about six and a half millions.

Judge Nelson's Successor.

It is stated this evening that Judge Nelson's successor on the Supreme Bench will be appointed from New York, and that the selection will fall either upon Edwards, Pierrepont, Judge Lewis Woodruff, ex-Judges Hunt or Johnson, of the New York Court of Appeals.

Will Not Resign Now.

Senator Wilson will not resign until the vote of the Electoral College is formally announced on the second Wednesday of February.

A Butchering Monopoly.

Judge Campbell, of New Orleans, appeared in the Supreme Court to-day to argue the case of the New Orleans Butchers' Benevolent Association against the Crescent City Slaughtering Company. The latter is an association of seventeen persons, who have procured from the Legislature of Louisiana the exclusive right to butcher all animals used for meat in New Orleans. The case comes here on an appeal from the Supreme Court of Louisiana. Judge Campbell, in his brief, asserts that the act creating the company is in violation of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth amendments to the Constitution of the United States. The former because it makes a servant class out of the consumers, and the latter because it abridges the rights of citizens, which the Fourth amendment forbids. The case will be argued about the first of January. It was argued a year ago, and the Court is understood to be divided in opinion on it. Hon. Phillip Phillips and Mr. J. F. A. Fellows are associated with Judge Campbell, and ex-Attorney General Black, Senator Carpenter and Mr. T. J. Durant are on the other side.

Kansas U. S. Senator.

Gentlemen arriving from Kansas report that the friends of the several candidates for the United States Senate have been busy since the election in ascertaining the feeling among the members elect to the Legislature. Pomeroy's friends privately claim only thirty-four votes, sixty-six being necessary to elect; while those opposed to him concede but twenty-nine Pomeroy votes. The Senator himself declares that the whole election turned simply upon two questions—Pomeroy and anti-Pomeroy.

The Credit Mobilier Investigation.

Jere. Black will be called as one of the first witnesses in the Credit Mobilier investigation, and it is expected General Banks will also be called. Merrick, of Maryland, who takes Black's place on the committee, is acceptable to all parties. He is an experienced lawyer, and was formerly Judge of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

CRIMES.

Case of Suicide or Murder—The Victim a Stranger.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

VALPARAISO, IND., December 4, 1872.

The dead body of a man was this morning found in a ravine near town. Appearances are of the most conclusive character, before entering the grove he had made two unsuccessful attempts at suicide by butting his head against the fence, after which he went into the grove and tied a scarf to a limb of a small tree and around his neck, then laid himself down and died partially suspended. He is an entire stranger here, no person has yet been found who has lost him. He is a stout and well built man, about thirty-five years of age, and of respectable appearance, perhaps a victim of the portrait-destroyers, as artists properly term the Vandal "restorers." The face is that of a man in the prime of life, and at the present moment is striking resemblance to the portraits of Shakespeare. From the fact that he has the dark, dry eyes have a side-long glance as one who sees himself in a glass. The broad and stiffly starched collar he was wearing, when found, was of linen. The back ground is dark and rich and a light gray—his brown jeans pantaloons and coat surrounded the head. This, William Hunt says, is characteristic in the works of some of the old masters, and that the effect is produced by a balance between the light of the face and the dark background. The murderer, suspected by some, was at once arrested and locked up in jail. She expressed regret that she had not killed the young man.

Murder by a Jealous Husband.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO, December 4, 1872.

Bridget Sullivan, a young woman and a former lover named Griffet one night last summer, made a second assault upon him to-night in a magistrate's office, Griffet having had her arrested for threatening her life. The prosecution was met by a plea of butcher knife and a bad wound the result. The woman, who is considerably crazed, was at once arrested and locked up in jail. She expressed regret that she had not killed the young man.

Murder by a Convict.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO, December 4, 1872.

Bridget Sullivan, a young woman and a former lover named Griffet one night last summer, made a second assault upon him to-night in a magistrate's office, Griffet having had her arrested for threatening her life. The prosecution was met by a plea of guilty, and although tried with new boilers and newly repaired machinery, he was found to have been the first to explode. After the explosion he was found to be either wanting in decision or the ingenuity to escape. Of the 12 persons killed on the spot, 11 were passengers, and the engineer, who

The Honored Dead

GREELEY'S REMAINS LYING IN STATE

Viewed By Sorrowing Thousands.

The Funeral Arrangements.

Draping of Dr. Chapin's Church

Elaborate Floral Decorations.

Funeral of Horace Greeley

Distinguished Persons Present.

Impressive Religious Services.

Remarks of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher and Dr. Chapin.

Unprecedentedly Large and Imposing Procession.

NEW YORK, December 3.—The scene at City Hall has had no parallel since the day the Abraham Lincoln lay within its walls. Itself had a sombre and mournful appearance, flags at half mast, the pillars enfolded in stocns of the same material drooping from windows on the balcony. Shrouded emblems and heavy folds of crape were in front of City Hall was occupied by men, women and children intent on farewell look at the face of the dead. Here the utmost decorum prevailed, no tumultuous haste to obtain positions. A hush pervaded the crowd and each face wore a look of awe. The multitude was formed in line by two lines of police stationed where the line of state. One of the first to appear was Gen. John A. Dix.

Under the Elm Tree Weed.

Many distinguished gentlemen in the New Weed, one of the oldest friends he old man sat near the head of the and pleased to be present on the occasion character of deceased. He said he ember that Greeley ever referred to amusement. They had been young men and as such were always ready for fun. Everybody," said **Weed,** "has hours of t Greeley never played. **I was as poor** t the battle of life as he was, but had ook relaxation. You see we were of ernments. Looking back over Greeley think he showed more wisdom in any man that ever lived. His whole to opposing the institution of slavery was perfectly pure, for he had no new of, and I believe he succeeded with isters. He was fearless in the expressef in what was right, the whole aim good. No man ever supported that ed over the body and gazed long and the face of his former associate. He affected by the scene, and after looksfaces of a few moments more he the shoulder of a friend and left the room.

Viewing the Remains.

The building had been appropriately decorated. Over the door in front hung a flag draped up with black. In the vestibule was a portrait of Greeley, with crape around the frame. The screen behind the pulpit was covered with black cloth, hanging in graceful folds and relieved by festoons, while from the top of it depended graceful strings of smilax. The pulpit itself and that in front were draped in black tapestry rat around the top of the galleries, and the columns were hung with the same fabric. Wreaths of serge dropped from the center of the ceiling to the spring of each arch, twined about the columns and terminated in the pilasters on each side—stopped at ten minutes before seven, the hour of Greeley's death—and were draped with black, and above it in a green wreath was a white cross of white flowers. The pew which Greeley used to occupy, about the middle of the church on the west wall was draped with crape. The figure, in flowers, of Greeley, was broken and hung at the head. The seat was thickly strewn with white flowers. Chairs being placed in the spot which Greeley himself used to occupy. The pew will be left empty for the present, as a memorable decorations of the church, and the flowers. There was a beautiful appropriateness and general significance in many of the devices which surrounded his bier, at the back of the pulpit floor. "It is well with the soul" which was first closed, was a wreath of white, a sickle, his great life rich harvest the been sickle of death had so lately reaped. Below this was a shield 3 feet square, with the arms of the State of New York in purple blossoms, the gift of the Columbia Council. Still below the last an ax and a pen were arranged, in the form of a cross, composed of flowers of white flowers, presented by the ladies of Dr. Chapin's congregation, spanned the pulpit over the speaker's head. On the white ground was the word "Rest" in blossoms the legend, "I know that my Redeemer liveth." Around these words, "It is done," were repeated again and again in decorations and all sorts of devices. At the right of the pulpit was a handsome gift from the Common Council, a large stand, of which the whole top was composed of the choicest flowers, rose-buds, and camellias, and imposing, surmounted by a crown wrought from the same lovely blossoms. Beneath the stand and crown was the gift of Mayor Hall, and another called from the Union League and the *Herald* cities were represented by appropriate offerings. From the Germania Society was a floral tablet and a small floral cross. One of the most remarkable of the floral offerings was a pure white harp, composed of camellias and white roses, with a ground work of violets and other modest blossoms. This beautiful design was sent by the *Tribune* employees. Among the most conspicuous offerings was a large floral tablet three and a half feet wide, standing about six feet from the floor, and presenting the appearance of a picture supported by columns, of which the frame consisted of violets and tea rose buds. The ground of the tablet was formed of the choicest white flowers, inscribed on the top with the words "it is done." In the center, "I know that my Redeemer liveth." On the reverse were the letters "P. T. U.," and the motto "In memoriam." The inscriptions were in red flowers. This tablet was presented by the *Tribune* Association. About the coffin itself were arranged the choicest gifts of personal friends. The air was full of the sweet breath of flowers. They were thick under the feet which trod so reverently as they bore him away; they filled every available space with their beauty. Among the most significant emblems displayed at the funeral was a simple wreath of ivy leaves, with violets interwined sent by Whitelaw Reid to the lines Greeley, with a brief expression of sympathy. The Misses Greeley with their own hands bound a wreath about the coffin of their father, as from one who to the last had his child-like love.

Thurlow Weed was a pall bearer at his own request. Dudley S. Gregory, also a pall bearer, was the man who loaned Greeley the thousand dollars with which he started the *Tribune*. A little after two the closed and twenty carriages followed the remains to Greenwood. The body was deposited in Mrs. Greeley's lot. There were no ceremonies of any kind further than the sprig of the body in its last resting place.

HOW THE PEOPLE CAME TO THE CHURCH.

The attendance at Dr. Chapin's church to-day exceeded fifteen thousand, and the number of tickets issued were fifteen hundred in excess of the capacity of the house. Many hundreds visited the church after service to inspect the decorations.

MANIFESTATIONS OF RESPECT.

NEW YORK, December 4.—Despatches from many cities in New England and the Middle States to-day say that flags were placed at half-mast, bells tolled and appropriate services held in memory of Greeley.

DOVER, December 4.—The Senate to-day adopted Rep-senatives to-day passed resolutions eulogistic of Horace Greeley and sympathizing with the bereaved daughters. The resolutions were sent to the Senate under suspension of the rules.

BUFFALO, December 4.—The flags of public and private buildings were displayed at half mast to-day, in respect to the memory of Horace Greeley. The Board of Trade passed resolutions highly eulogistic of the character of the *Tribune*.

ALBANY, December 5.—The Senate to-day adopted resolutions expressive of the eminent services of Greeley, and sympathy in the bereavement of his family, and then adjourned, in respect to his memory, during the progress of the obsequies.

LETTER FROM WHITELAW REID.

NEW YORK, December 4.—The *Tribune* to-morrow publishes the following:

AMESBURY, 2d Twelfth Month, 1872.—*My Dear Friend and Co-Worker:* Were it in my power, I would be present at the last service of love and respect our dear friend, Horace Greeley. My heart is full of sadness. The events of thirty years crowd upon me—all things written in the have acted together or differed as friends—differed about the attachment of the people to the Union. All that time I have known him as an educator of the people in liberty, temperance, peace and universal brotherhood. uniformly taking the side of the poor enslaved or the suffering in every cause and country. Hardly a day have I heard of his death there mingled with my grief a feeling of gratitude that it had been preserved from saying one word, through fear or zeal or difference of opinion, which would in any degree lessen in his or that I had not done to remove or r the dead for unkindness to the living, which is one of the saddest burdens of humanity. I could not refrain from this hasty expression of my sympathy with one who, more, perhaps, than any other has enjoyed the love and confidence of the great editor. No words of praise or mine can add to the lustre of his glorious career. With common consent he will take his place in the Valhalla of American worthies as one of the greatest and best.

I am only, by friend.

Signed, JOHN G. WHITTIER.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGES.

Ballots Cast for President and Vice President.

Maryland and Tennessee for Hendricks—Georgia Vote Scattering—Missouri Undecided.

Ohio.

COLUMBUS, December 4.—The Presidential Electors reassembled in the Senate Chamber at 12 o'clock to-day with a good attendance. The ballots were cast for U. S. Grant for President, and Henry Wilson for Vice President.

New York.

ALBANY, December 4.—The Electoral College today reassembled and cast thirty-five ballots for Grant and Wilson. Fred. Douglass was appointed messenger to Washington. The Secretary read the Resolutions appropriate to the death of Horace Greeley were adopted.

Maryland.

ANNAPOLIS, December 4.—The Electoral College met to-day and cast the vote of the State for Hendricks, of Indiana, for President. Suitable resolutions were prepared on the death of Horace Greeley.

Arkansas.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., December 4.—The Secretary of State to-day declared the Grant Electors elected in this State by majorities ranging from three thousand to five thousand. The Electors met at the state House and cast the vote for Grant.

Tennessee.

NASHVILLE, TENN., December 4.—The Electoral College met to-day and cast the vote of the State for Gov. Hendricks, of Indiana, for President, and Grata Brown for Vice President. Mr. Gordon of Murry, was chosen messenger to carry the vote to Washington. Resolutions in honor of Mr. Greeley were adopted.

Indiana.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., December 4.—The Electors for President and Vice President assembled in the hall of the House of Representatives this morning at ten o'clock. Major Jonathan W. Gordon was called to the chair, and Hon. T. A. Hendricks, secretary. After some preliminary remarks the vote was cast for Grant and Wilson in the regular way. Appropriate resolutions on the death of Horace Greeley, offered by Mr. Ellis, were adopted with deep feeling.

Georgia.

ATLANTA, GA., December 4.—The electoral vote of Georgia was cast to-day with the following result: For President, B. Gratz Brown, six; Horace Greeley, three; Charles Jenkins, of Georgia, two, and Thomas R. R. Cobb, of Georgia, five; Gen. N. P. Banks, of Massachusetts, one.

Massachusetts.

BOSTON, December 4.—The Electoral College of Massachusetts met to-day and cast a unanimous vote for Grant and Wilson.

Connecticut.

HARTFORD, December 4.—The Connecticut Presidential Electors met to-day and cast their votes for Grant and Wilson.

Pennsylvania.

PHILADELPHIA, December 4.—The Electoral College of Pennsylvania met at Harrisburg to-day and cast the vote of the State for Grant and Wilson.

New Hampshire.

CONCORD, December 4.—The Electoral College of this State to-day cast a unanimous vote for Grant and Wilson.

Rhode Island.

PROVIDENCE, December 4.—The Presidential Electors met at Bristol this afternoon and cast the vote of the State for Grant and Wilson.

Virginia.

RICHMOND, December 4.—The Presidential Electors to-day cast the vote of the State for Grant and Wilson.

Missouri.

ST. LOUIS, December 4.—The Electoral College of Missouri met at Jefferson City this afternoon. After filling vacancies and accepting resignations in respect to the memory of Horace Greeley, adjourned till evening. It is said the difference of opinion among the electors is as to who the vote shall be cast for, and the decision is not expected till a late hour.

ST. LOUIS, December 5.—The Electoral College in the night session reached no decision as to how the vote should be cast, and adjourned till to-morrow.

Iowa.

CHICAGO, December 4.—The Presidential Electors of Iowa met at the capital to-day, and cast the vote for Grant and Wilson, and appointed Elijah Hodell messenger to carry the result to Washington.

Illinois.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., December 4.—The Presidential Electors met here to-day, and cast the vote for Grant and Wilson.

COUNTY AFFAIRS.

Important Legislation Proposed—The Office of County Commissioner to be Abolished—Enactments to the Fee Bill—County Surveyor and Civil Engineer, &c., &c.

Henry Warner, Esq., County Controller, has prepared a number of bills, relative to county affairs, which will be submitted to the Legislature, at its ensuing session. These bills mainly embody changes in existing laws, which changes have been deemed necessary by the County Commissioners. There is also a new bill, creating the office of County Surveyor and Civil Engineer, the appointee to receive all the honors along the avenue without exception were thickly crowded, the windows and balconies were full and the hotels, club houses and public buildings of all kinds presented a sea of human faces. The procession was greater than the multitude which welcomed the Grand Duke Alexis or any which has passed through Broadway. From Dr. Chapin's church to Madison Square, a distance of just a mile, four lines of police were stationed. On the outer edge of the sidewalk the crowd were huddled two and three deep. On the walk within there was barely room for the people's hearts bearing witness to a career of honest purpose. And the universal sympathy for the family of Mr. Greeley? It is not for his mere intellectual ability, large and undoubtable as it was. It is not because he was an high official, for Horace Greeley held no official station. The will of the people, through the ballot-box, has twice refused the large to-day decided that he should hold no such station. To-day the love is for the man, for the fireside from which all human once look small and dim. Why is it, then? It is the magnetism of simple goodness. Mr. Greeley's fame was large in his brain. His love for humanity was inherent. He touched all the world—humanity, so to speak, in its aggregate, not by words merely, but by deeds. That word, when yesterday passed through the crowd that was to take that look upon his countenance, were moved by no mere curiosity. They came there for to gaze upon the face of that great journalist, who for a quarter of a century had struggled through their experiences and never forgot their sorrows, his pulse beat with theirs in the same impulses, and it enlisted him in the service of very many causes. Not only did it inspire him to long war with oppression, vice and wickedness of every kind, but it made him a hopeful genius also. Perhaps he erred on the side of mercy against justice; but if a man must err at all, that is a good side to err on. Whatever may be the various aspects of him who lies dead before us, there was no mistake in the main current of the principle which characterized his life, and therein is a lesson for us also. How faithfully he did its work, and how rich life it is superlicuous for me to say. It was as continually practical one. A lifelong friend and champion of labor, of education, of temperance, of domestic policy, of freedom, go mourning for him to-day. Wielding the mighty power of the press, he engaged in the struggle of the times, placed in the editorial chair that he was, he is no less in the pulpit. He never sovereign strength, some may think severely, but he spoke as he felt. Whatever may be the judgments of his thoughts and principles, he never debased it as a minister of impurity or of trade; in the vehicle of a serious social wrong. White Horace Greeley had many antagonists, he had few if any enemies. And now I feel, without yielding to the mere proprieties of the occasion, express my satisfaction that while political differences are wisely and healthfully considered, the highest representation of the nation to-day here to lay his head in the bosom of the people, the worker, the patriot and man." (Attempted applause which was suppressed.)

The address was then followed by an earnest prayer and another hymn, "Angels ever bright and fair."

Rev. Mr. Chapin then pronounced the benediction and the choir sang a beautiful and touching chant, "O what is life?"

THE PROCESSION FROM THE CHURCH.

The procession moved down Fifth avenue in the following order, the police having previously cleared the roadway from crowds:

Platoon of police, Broadway squad.

Superintendent Kelso, Mayor Hall, Inspectors Dilks and Walling, Police Justices.

Fourth Precinct police, Captain Ulman, one hundred men.

Fire Department, under command of Engineer Shay.

Rev. Dr. Pullman, officiating clergyman at the grave.

The Pall-Bearers:

Chief Justice Chase,	Thurlow Weed,
Senator Trumbull,	J. Chamberlin,
C. P. Huntington,	William M. Evarts,
D. W. Bruce,	Sinclair Tousey,
Dudley S. Gregory,	H. J. Raymond,
Hon. Wm. M. Evarts,	John F. Williams,
Senator Fenton,	Erastus Brooks,
Robert Bonner,	R. M. Hoe,
Peter C. Baker,	J. G. Lightbody,
Charles Storrs.	John R. Storrs.

Hearse.

Ida and Gabrielle Greeley, and other mourners in the city coaches.

Senator Conkling and Governor Hoffman, of the United States.

Governors of adjoining States.

The *Tribune* editorial staff and Typographical Society.

Union League Club.

Members of the Common Council.

Heads of Departments.

Distinguished officials from adjoining cities, in carriages, two deep, to the number of eighty-five.

Members of the Liberal Republican General Committee.

Union Republican General Committee.

Tammany Hall General Committee.

Simon Cameron Association.

Sons of Temperance.

Delegations from Arcadian, Liberty, Farmers, and Rural Clubs, and American Institute.

Citizens generally in carriages.

No music was in the line, but the procession, as it slowly moved along the avenue, presented a magnificent if mournful spectacle. Around the church and all the houses

The Pittsburgh Commercial. Saturday, December 7, 1872.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1872.

THE city elections take place to-day, the most important officers to elect being members of Council, School Directors, Aldermen and members of the Board of Revision under the equalization ordinance. Tickets have been nominated in all the wards, and every citizen should feel it incumbent on him to vote. The Republican candidates regularly placed in nomination are well selected, and should receive the full party vote.

THE North Carolina Legislature is at a deadlock over the United States Senatorial question. There is a Democratic majority in both Houses, but owing to the bitter struggle between the friends of VANCE and MERRIMON, the Republicans are not without hopes of re-electing Senator POOL, the present incumbent of the office. Judge MERRIMON is the late defeated candidate for Governor, and is the law partner of Mr. PHELPS, the newly appointed Solicitor General of the Government.

VOTE EARLY. This, we know, is a hackneyed admonition; nevertheless, it needs often to be repeated. A considerable portion of our voting population reside in the outer wards, while doing business down town; and some of them not infrequently lose their votes altogether, either by not voting before leaving in the morning, or by not returning until late in the evening, when the polls are liable to be crowded. As many as can should make a point of voting in the morning, and this suggestion applies as well to voters in the old wards as in the new.

THE early and rigorous advent of winter renders the question of the condition of our destitute poor one of immediate importance. Among a population as numerous as ours there will always be a considerable number of sick and indigent persons needing relief in some shape, and this class will of course be larger at this season of the year than at any other period. It is to be hoped those of our citizens whom Providence has blest in store and purse may not be unmindful of the claims upon their sympathies of these, their less fortunate and favored fellow creatures.

CONGRESS is now in session. In view of the inevitable holiday recess, which will leave barely fifty working days during the session, it is greatly to be hoped that no time may be wasted in mere discursive talk. Oratory is well enough in its place, but the business interests of the country come first. Let our legislators emulate the example set by WASHINGTON and FRANKLIN, of whom JEFFERSON says that during their entire period of Congressional service he never heard either of them speak ten minutes at a time, or to any but the main point which was to decide the question. "They laid their shoulders to the great points, knowing that the little ones would take care of them selves." There is a hint in this which may be studied to great advantage.

A MEETING of the Gettysburg Battle-field Memorial Association of Pennsylvania, held Friday at which resolutions were adopted providing for the erection of a memorial column and statue in honor of General MEADE; an executive committee, at the head of which is President GRANT, being appointed ato the charge of the fund to be raised for the purpose. The association will in a few days issue an address inviting the co-operation of Governors, Legislatures, and the Mayors and Councils of cities which furnished forces to the Army of the Potomac, and to Union Leagues, and Associations of Pennsylvania Reserves, and the Grand Army of the Potomac in raising the fund. This is a work in which Pittsburgh will undoubtedly desire to have a creditable share.

SPEAKING of the proposition, now being urged in some quarters, to reorganize the scale of salaries and fees of the civil list, a contemporary suggests that the best mode of procedure would be to [illegible] of a commission to inquire into the emoluments of all persons holding office under the United States, and the recommendation of a new scale, which should abolish the fee system as far as possible. This is well as far as it goes; but it would seem that some steps ought also to be taken in the direction of pensioning the employees of the government, when by sickness or old age they are compelled to retire from its service. In view of the great changes which have taken place since the salaries of our government officials were first fixed, the subject of their compensation unquestionably demands a revision. This, indeed, may be said to be a necessary part of civil service reform. But so also may the other, and it can hardly be considered a less important one.

REMARKING on the recent declaration of Speaker BLAINE that "conciliation is the watchword of the second term," a prominent opposition journal says it "don't like the aspect." That paper is evidently anxious to keep up a factious antagonism to the administration, quite irrespective of its deserts or of the wants of the country generally. The South already begins to see that the defeat of the coalition was the best thing that could have happened for its peace and progress. The Republican party, having wiped out lines of latitude, race and color as fixed divisions in the politics of the country, proposes to be magnanimous as well as just. Is it too much to ask that the fossiliferous journals of the class referred to will, for a time at least, cease their ill-engendered efforts to array the North and South against each other? There is as yet no reason to doubt that the coming administration will be worthy of the age, the country and the people. Let it be judged solely by its fruits.

IT is pretty certain that the San Domingo annexation scheme will be revived during the present session of Congress. This is not to be done by the President, who has again declared his purpose of leaving the whole question with the people. A number of Republican journals and politicians, however, some of them of considerable weight and influence, support it upon the grounds that, inasmuch as the annexation proposition originally emanated from the President, his re-election was an indorsement of it by the people. This, however, is by no means the case. There has been no recent expression of public opinion whatever concerning the matter. When the people are ready they will unquestionably speak with directness and authority. As it is, the matter remains in exactly the same condition in which it was a year ago. The time may come when the acquisition of that country will be favored by the people of this as a wise and necessary measure. But it is not yet, as those who are engineering the project will probably be made to understand, at an early

It is not improbable that what is known as the "French Spoliation Claims" question will be finally disposed of during the present session of Congress. These claims, which date from before 1800, have survived every administration since that of President ADAMS. The bill for their payment will come up for consideration in the Senate at an early day in the present month. The amount involved is several millions of dollars. Meetings of the descendants of the original claimants are being held in various parts of the country, for the purpose of memorializing Congress in behalf of the payment of the claims. It is said that, among the parties interested in them, are the descendants of many eminent merchants, who explored distant oceans and opened new paths in the commerce of this republic; who, by their enterprise, acquired fortune and founded colleges and other public institutions, some of whose posterity, who hold large claims against the nation, and who might enjoy affluence, were justice accorded to them, are now, by the vicissitudes of fortune, languishing in alms-houses, or dependent upon the charity of friends and relatives.

THE statistical returns of our foreign commerce for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872, just published, are, upon the whole, of a comparatively satisfactory character, although the imports are still considerably in excess of the domestic and foreign exports, which is a balance on the wrong side of the account. It appears that during the imports amounted to $649,337,340; the domestic exports (specie valnes) to $501,164,971, and the foreign exports to $22,769,749. The report also contains detailed lists of the arrival of immigrants in the United States for the quarter ended June 30, 1872, and for the year ended the same. The total number arrived during the year was 404,806, of whom 240,170 were males, and 164,636 females. They represent 176 occupations, and come from about a hundred different countries. These tables are followed by a valuable statistical exhibit, showing the quantities and values of our imports and domestic exports for 1871 and 1872, and the actual increase or decrease in value of the principal articles. Our importation of merchandize for the present fiscal year will unquestionably be considerably below that of last year; the English trade reports for October, in a table of fifteen articles of export, which represent almost three-fourths of the total value of exports, showing a decrease in quantity in the case of all but four, eight of them showing a decrease in value as well. This falling off is of course largely caused by the withdrawal of orders from this country for goods which, being protected by our tariff policy, are beginning to be manufactured in large quantities at home. Before the close of the present fiscal year we shall probably be considerably further emancipated from dependence on the British market.

HORACE GREELEY.

Whatever may be fairly urged in the way of general objection to the ancient saying which enjoins that only good shall be spoken of the dead, the humane precept will certainly rule for the present in the judgments of the American press concerning Mr. GREELEY. To the unconditional admirers and eulogists of the late editorial candidate for the Presidency, his death is a consecration, and even to his most earnest political opponents the time and circumstances of his decease must seem invested with a pathos sufficiently powerful to banish all disposition to criticize the character or to scrutinize closely the career of the man. People no longer think of him as the candidate of a party for the Presidency, or of the peculiarities and habit and temper which appeared to them to disqualify him for the duties of that high office. Mr. GREELEY'S candidacy is viewed as a slight and almost insignificant episode in his long career, and as the popular estimate of his talents and virtues was originally formed without reference to or thought of any official position in the gift of the people, they now recollect and review them in connection with the line of activity which he chose for himself, and which he pursued through more than thirty years, with the most strenuous industry and with results at once brilliant and, on the whole, beneficent. One of the first American newspaper men to appreciate fully the power of the press in a mighty nation of readers and free men, he established the *Tribune*, and stamped upon it the features of his own individuality in lines so bold and so clearly defined that they twain became one flesh. There is hardly any exaggeration or even a figure in the expression, as wherever the English language is spoken, not only in America but on the coast of China, in British India, and in the Pacific islands, for a score of years at least, the names of GREELEY and the *Tribune* have been interchangeable terms, each of them designating the same distinctly constituted and well understood character. And to the minds of the regular readers of the paper it stood forth invested with the traits of a living personality, of a man whose nature, principles, sentiments, prejudices and antecedents were familiarly known, whose eyes and ears were ever open to the sights and sounds of the busy, striving world around him, and whose judgment concerning each important or exciting event of the time might be anticipated like the judgment of an intimate acquaintance.

The intense individuality of the *Tribune*, the reflection or reproduction of the editor's own, was, no doubt, one great secret of the wide popularity of the journal. Its readers were constantly made to feel that its opinions were the views of a man who thought for himself, and who gave reasons good or bad for his convictions. They were neither the echoes of others' thoughts nor elaborate guesses at the fancied thoughts of readers put forth in the hope of pleasing them. Hence great multitudes who little relished some of Mr. GREELEY'S opinions read the *Tribune* because they admired his independence and his courage. And as to the clearness and vigor with which even the most eccentric opinions were enunciated in the paper there could be no difference of opinion. Independence and vigor, however, would never have sufficed without other qualities to win for the *Tribune* the great audience which it finally gathered. The energetic humanity of the paper was the quality which most of all recommended it to the American people. *Pagina hominem sapit.* Mr. GREELEY took the lead among American newspaper men in making the relief and improvement of man's estate a one great object of his journalistic labors. At first in favor of a radical reorganization of society, he became the most zealous advocate of whatever agency or measure seemed to him adapted to increase the comforts and general welfare of the people. And on such subjects he wrote with a degree of force and courage which could have been inspired only by generous social earnestness, with whatever mingling of human infirmity. Whether right or wrong as to the fitness or worth of the reforms he recommended, there could be little if any doubt about his sincerity or the entire good faith with which he urged them. Hence the reformers of all classes, and a large proportion of the men whose professions engage their thoughts and efforts in the endeavor to elevate the moral and intellectual condition of their fellow creatures, came at length to regard the *Tribune* as an ally. Even the abolitionists, while scathingly denounced one now with "trenchling hope," then with disgust, and again with undisguised contempt, could not help at times recognizing the service which he was rendering to their cause. His disapprobation of slavery seems at first to have turned chiefly upon its economical evils, and upon its injurious influence upon the white race. Whatever may have happened to move his sympathies, and called forth denunciations of a system which trained up the slaveowners in arrogance, tyranny, and the natural vices of an idle life, while it paralysed the intelligence and the energies necessary to the full utilization of the ground and its resources. The slaves, however, were not wholly forgotten. While he seldom if ever held the colored race of his paper to those pitiful appeals and heartrending narratives which filled the publications of the abolitionists, he did not fail from time to time to make such use of the abundant facts at command as might most effectually disgust Northern readers with the compromises of the constitution, and most effectually alarm Southern readers for the safety of their peculiar institution. No doubt it is in this character and office of agitator against slavery that GREELEY will be longest and most favorably remembered. As an agitator he has had no superior in history. Had he yielded to the wishes of the abolitionists and occupied their ground, his influence would have been at once restricted to the narrow limits of a narrow sect. But he was too sagacious to make such a mistake. Standing on the constitution which he respected while provoking the slaveholders to disregard its provisions, and battling against slavery as he battled against whatever else seemed to him most glaringly wrong and injurious to the people, GREELEY put the nation through the best possible course of preparation for the great conflict which was inevitable. The *Tribune* thus rendered to American civilization a service which can never be forgotten. And as the editor of the *Tribune* may well be regarded happy in the opportunities of his life, he may, with equal reason, be pronounced fortunate, as a Roman would have said, in the opportunity of his death. In a free country, through long years, fighting the enemies of human freedom, combating ignorance and sloth and helping on many good causes, laboring ever in the light, with his countrymen and all the future to watch and judge him, GREELEY lived a peculiarly active and intense life. Though he failed to become President, he had as large a share as any other man in the victory which made the Presidency an office worth aspiring to. Then in all probability his work in the country was so completely done that his subsequent activity might rather have detracted from than added to his fame and usefulness.

THE CRISIS IN FRANCE.

No other crisis so embarrassing and perilous as the one now existing in France has occurred since M. THIERS came into power. It has been foreshadowed for several weeks in the increasing alienation of parties, in the vehement tone of the partisan journals, and especially in the excitement and anxiety produced by the speeches of GAMBETTA. The party of the Left Center in the Assembly, that is, the party which favors the conservative republic, numbers only about a hundred and fifty, or one-fifth of the members. These have given THIERS pretty steady and uniform support, but without the votes of the Extreme Left, or radical party, on all questions affecting the fundamental form of the government, and without the occasional vote of the Right Center, or monarchical party, the conservative republic must have long ago gone to pieces. When, therefore, GAMBETTA denounced the conservative republic as an "ignoble comedy," in which sound radicals could consistently play no part, and the President, on account of his need of GAMBETTA'S support, dared not, in accordance with French ideas of freedom of speech, interpose either to punish or rebuke the audacious railer, a fair pretext was given, on the part of the monarchists for the cries that THIERS sympathized with radicalism, that property was in danger, and that there must be no further concessions to republicanism. The result happened. The session of the Assembly, in anticipation of the re-opening of the sessions of the Assembly, all patriotic French hearts were full of anxiety as to what might happen. The peril was foreseen to be that THIERS would no longer be able to maintain the republic by a compromise among the antagonistic parties, and that the "pact of BORDEAUX," as it is called, might come to an end in a general scramble between monarchists, radicals and conservative republicans for the possession of power. This imbroglio is the peril which seems drawing ever nearer and may burst upon France before these words reach our readers.

A committee to prepare a constitution or organic law for the nation, the prolongation of M. THIERS'S power for four years, the election of a Vice President to take his place in case of death or resignation, and the creation of a second chamber, these are the leading measures which the Left Center are in favor of. The manifest purpose of these measures is and their tendency, if adopted, would be to consolidate the republic and make it the permanent form of government. And by Frenchmen of unimpeachable honesty and intelligence it is confidently affirmed that a great majority of the French people are now prepared to accept the republic as the form best suited to the condition and wants of the nation. That a decided preponderance of the intelligence and culture of the nation is thus minded there can be no doubt. It is also a very significant fact that this republican sentiment in France is the obvious result of the actual working of the republic, so called, under the administration of THIERS. Successive elections in various departments and localities, and many other indications, have proved that from being largely monarchical the French people are rapidly becoming largely republican. In the Assembly however, consisting of members elected for a specific purpose, amidst the despondency and gloom which succeded the German war, the supporters of monarchy, Orleanists, Legitimists and Bonapartists, are greatly in the majority. While by their divisions, paltry animosities, and impracticable and unpatriotic statesmanship they have disgusted their constituents, they have also helped to republicanize them. Hence the Assembly some time ago ceased to represent the nation. GAMBETTA therefore demands that it shall dissolve itself and give place to deputies who can represent the nation. But conservative republicans and monarchists concur in the resolution to retain their places. The former are influenced chiefly by fear of radical ascendancy, and the consequent necessity of a union with the royalists under a king or an emperor to save property and society; and the monarchists, protesting and perhaps believing that they still represent their constituents, are determined not to resign the advantages which they possess.

In the actual condition of affairs the conduct of the royalists is so disgracefully unpatriotic and selfish that it would seem sufficient to discredit and disgrace their cause forever. They now see that by supporting THIERS and the republic they have helped to establish the republic and to make the people republicans. Repenting of their patriotic condescension in the past, they refuse any longer to encourage a form of government which they dislike, and manifest a purpose to gratify their political partialities, whatever may be the disastrous consequences of their ignoble obstinacy. They present a singular spectacle —that of a factious majority in an Assembly of which the minority is believed to represent the nation in supporting the President.

What the results of the crisis are to be it is impossible to conjecture. THIERS will no doubt do all in his power to effect a reconciliation, and will not resign his place while there is any hope of adjustment. Failing to effect a settlement he may not even then resign but may make a final appeal to the patriotism of the Assembly and the country and thus acquire the moral force necessary to sustain him. Should this resource fail, there would seem to be nothing left to look for but an armed conflict of parties. The majority of the Assembly would hardly have a right to command the army and the army might or might not obey. General CHANGARNIER who is said to be put forward by a coalition of the royalists of all parties, and who is believed to have ambitious aspirations, is known to be one of the most unpopular officers in the army. And in case of a final rupture of parties in the Assembly the army is not likely to act as a unit under single commander. Whether it should so act or not a civil war would appear to be inevitable, the beginning of which would be of course followed by the immediate reoccupation of the vacated departments by the Germans.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President's Message to Congress, herewith printed, has several features in common with his previous annual communications to that body. Like them, it is, on the one hand almost totally devoid of grace of style or composition, but distinguished on the other by the same direct straightforwardness of utterance, the same clear knowledge of the practical needs of the time, the same hearty desire of promoting the best interests of the country and of advancing the cause of civilization at large, and the same uncommon aptitude of hitting upon the simplest and best methods by which these are to be subserved and forwarded.

The topics embraced in the Message are so numerous, and the condition of our columns is so crowded, that it is impossible to give the document anything like the consideration which its importance demands.

There are many recommendations and references, however, which it would be gratifying to note in detail; among them the business-like suggestions of the President with regard to the appointment of a Joint Commission for the immediate completion of the survey and decermination or that portion of the San Juan boundary line known as the commission that determined the remaining part of the line were unable to agree, and of one to determine the line of our boundary between Alaska and the neighboring possessions of Great Britain. These suggestions, as well as the recommendation that an increase should be made in the surveying force for fixing the line between the United States and British possessions between the Lake of the Woods and the Rocky Mountains, to the end that it may be completed at once, show the President's anxiety that the nation shall settle its affairs as it goes, instead of leaving a legacy of doubt and uncertainty to the future.

The recommendations of the Message with regard to public education; to the postal telegraph; to the relief of distressed Americans in foreign countries; to the International Exposition; the International Statistical Congress; for the establishment of a government commission to consider the whole question of a more certain and economic transportation of commerce by our inland water routes; for the planting and protection of forests in connection with the sale of the public lands, and for the repeal of the franking privilege, will also be likely to commend themselves to the approval of the people at large, without respect to locality or party.

The President reiterates his recommendation of last year as to the desirability of giving a fixed value to our currency, approaching par with specie, in order to abolish the pernicious financial and moral effects consequent upon constant fluctuations in the price of gold. Presently, however, as we think, he suggests that no further legislation with regard to taxation should be had for the present.

The recommendation in the last Message for an appropriation for the support of a number of discreetly chosen American youths in China, and Japan to serve as a part of the official families of our Ministers to those countries, is renewed. In view of the constantly increasing importance of our diplomatic and commercial relations with those powers, the suggestion is a timely one, and it is to be hoped may be carried out. The revival of our shipping interests, and the encouragement of American lines of steamers plying between our own ports and the countries named in the Message, will also commend themselves to the support of a large body of our fellow citizens. The successful results of the Indian policy are adverted to, and a cordial reference is made to the proposed Centennial Exhibition of 1876, in which that great enterprise is properly commended.

The comparatively brief but kindly reference of the Message to the South, with the explicitly declared purpose of the Administration to execute the Enforcement act with rigorous impartiality, whenever the necessity of applying it may be demanded, will be hailed with satisfaction by law-abiding people everywhere; while the President's reiterated intention of enforcing the reformed Civil Service rules, will elicit warm commendation from all who are interested in the elevation and purification of the public service. Taken altogether, the Message will give general satisfaction, and will add to the assurances already afforded that the incoming Administration will be likely to a considerable extent to disarm the hostility of those most bitterly opposed to the present, and prove itself worthy of the confidence of the country and the age.

ASSEMBLING OF CONGRESS.

Monday the Forty-second Congress assembled for its third and closing session, expiring by constitutional limitation at noon on the fourth of next March. The session will therefore last but three months; while, deducting the time usually devoted to the holidays, the working days of the session will hardly, at the outside, exceed fifty days. There is an immense amount of work to be done, and although the Appropriation Committee, which has held daily sessions for nearly two weeks past, has almost completed its labors, and will have the principal appropriation bills quite ready by the time the House is prepared to settle down for the transaction of business, there are a great variety of measures, some of them growing out of the probable recommendations of the President's Message, and others suggested by the interests of the tax-payers and the needs of the country generally, which will challenge the most earnest and thorough consideration of the members. Doubtless, also, the lobby will be actively engaged; and although there are unquestionably some plans involving subsidies which deserve to succeed, there will be numberless "jobs" appealing for government aid of one kind or another, which will call for the closest scrutiny—some of them, indeed, for the most strenuous opposition—on the part of our legislators. In the aggregate, appropriations will probably be asked to the amount of three or four hundred millions of dollars. The necessity of the utmost prudence and caution will [illegible] apparent at a glance. Measures the postal telegraph scheme, and the [illegible] of a system of compul[illegible] will also, it is likely, be introduced, which propositions may perhaps [illegible] wise and creditable. Action will also undoubtedly be taken on the bill, already reported, to the better protection of immigrants, a measure which deserves to receive prompt and careful consideration. It is likely, too, that the question of the chartering of freight railroads by the government, under its general powers for the regulation of commerce between the States, will come prominently before Congress. As will therefore be seen, there will be little time for idling, if the public necessities are to be properly attended to, and it is to be hoped the mere political wranglers who are still members of the national legislature will have the good sense to bear this important fact in mind. What is needed, is a business session, conducted with sound judgment, great caution and strict economy. It is not a time for squabbles or scrambles of any kind.

A DISCUSSION of much more than ordinary public importance has just been rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States, relating as it does to the whole future of the fine arts in this country. Some thirty years ago Congress passed an act authorizing the Commissioner of Patents to grant letters of protection for all new forms of ornamentation, such as new designs for printing, statues, bas reliefs, &c. The law, however, has practically remained a dead letter. At least, no suits under it have ever before been carried to the Supreme Court. Infringement of design patents have therefore become almost universal. Four or five years ago, however, a leading silversmith company, which kept a large corps of artists in its employ for the purpose of devising new forms of decoration, brought suit against a rival manufacturing company to recover damages for infringement of a patent of a new design. The Court below found that there was no infringement, for the reason that there was a substantial difference in ornamentation, judgment being rendered for defendants. On appeal to the Supreme Court, it was contended that if, as was shown, the outline was the same, while the difference in the ornamentation was not sufficiently marked to be noticed by the ordinary observer, such as would be liable to purchase, but only by experts and those skilled in the art of design, it must be considered an infringement, or there would be an end of all protection for patentees or designs, since it was always easy to vary the details of a work of art, and still preserve the same artistic effect and the same result on the eye of the observer. The Court sustained the theory of appellant, and revised the decree of the court below. This decision goes to the root of the matter, and will unquestionably exert considerable influence on the artistic progress of the country.

IN THE course of some thoughtful observations on the subject of compulsory education, which is rapidly coming to the front as one of the most important public questions of the time, a local contemporary thinks that if our public school studies were properly modernized, and the schools rendered agreeable and attractive, there would be no need of compulsory education, since attendance would then be voluntary. No one will dispute the need of the reforms to which our contemporary calls attention, neither is there any doubt that if they were carried into practice the percentage of attendance at our public schools would, in all likelihood, be considerably increased. Unhappily, however, there are very many parents who, no matter how pleasant might be the school-room, nor how admirable the course of instruction, would still fail to compel their children to attend. This is apparent from the fact that, notwithstanding our greatly improved educational incentives and facilities, the mass of ignorance is steadily increasing, the proportion of illiterate adults to the whole population of the country being greater to-day than it was twenty years ago. There is, of course, much to be said on both sides of the subject; still the question remains whether that interest in the morals of its citizens which every State should possess, does not authorize it to take the nascent vagrant or criminal—for crime and ignorance are closely allied—in hand in time to save him, rather than to build prisons for his restraint after he is matured. It is a very important question, and one which is constantly becoming more grave.

THE decline in the price of iron is attracting the attentions of politicians, as well as those engaged in the iron trade. As Great Britain smelts nearly one-half the iron made in the world, and since the stock on hand in that country is rapidly increasing, the half-million tons per month, it is believed that British iron will soon again come into such competition with our manufacturers as to render a higher tariff necessary. Owing to the limited supplies of Europe, American production has been largely stimulated, and millions of dollars have been invested in new furnaces. In Pittsburgh, within a period of eight months, four new furnaces have been put in blast, with an aggregate capacity of seventeen hundred tons per week. Similar activity has been developed in other sections. It is not believed, however, that with the greatly diversified uses to which iron is now put, and the large demand that exists for it, that the market is soon to be glutted. Prices may recede considerably, and yet mail can be smelted at a profit in this country—and that, too, without any additional duty on foreign iron. When it becomes necessary to protect our manufacturers against the cheap labor of England, the tariff question will doubtless receive prompt attention.

An Awkward Position.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

I believe that a precedent is wanting for the condition of things created by the death of Mr. Greeley. The query is, will the electors cast their votes for a dead man, or exercise their constitutional right and vote for some living man?

D.

THE Comptroller of the Currency, in his report recommends that Congress pass a law repealing every law fixing the rate of interest, made specific interest at the rate of two a week.

The oysters in several of the [illegible] Peake Bay, have become green, from [illegible] unmarketable. Green is not a fashionable color among oyster eaters in the United States, though in Paris a green oyster will sell for twice as much as a white one. The French oystermen have "greening ponds," in which the oysters are placed for the purpose of being brought to the favorite color.

The recent failures among the fish merchants of Boston have, it is stated, caused great distress among the poor fishermen of Cape Cod. Many persons have been utterly ruined, and, after toiling all the summer, have not a cent left for their families this winter. Many purchases were made under circumstances of great provocation just on the eve of failures.

In all the new streets of Paris the buildings at the corners are rounded or the angle cut off, so that the sidewalks are curved, thus facilitating locomotion and avoiding the many accidents caused by turning around sharp angles. Boston thinks of adopting this plan in laying out her streets anew.

The lady members of one of the leading churches of Nashville, Tennessee, have resolved to dispense with all finery on Sunday—wearing no jewels but consistency—and will hereafter appear at church in calico dresses.

The "best man" at a late fashionable New York wedding made a funny blunder. When it became his duty to hand the officiating clergyman his fee, our friend, from some peculiar confusion of ideas, pressed the money into the hand of one of the guests, murmured an acknowledgement and fled before the astonished gentleman could say a word.

The Boston *Transcript*, which suffered so materially by the great conflagration, will soon reappear in full and even increased vigor—new presses, new type, new material of every character, and with all the improvements mechanically and typographically which experience and ingenuity can suggest.

The Boston *Traveller* charges that the men who said the city would be disgraced by the acceptance of aid for its poor from other cities, have not yet contributed the sum required to prevent such disgrace.

Who, after this, shall say the Chinese are not a progressive people? The government has issued two proclamations—one forbidding Chinese landlords to charge extra rent for rooms or houses on account of the birth of children in them, and the other prohibiting under severe penalties the murdering of new-born babes.

A Maine paper tells a story of a sea captain, just returned from a long voyage, who was told by a commission merchant the sad news that his wife had died. "Wife dead!" said the captain, "well now, do you know I didn't think she was long lived. *How's freights?*"

A German savan records the results of a series of experiments made with a view of ascertaining whether by igniting bone ash with organic substances, such as glue, size, sugar, etc., a good decolorizing charcoal is formed, and also whether the spent animal black can be revivified to its former strength by a similar process. It appears from the author's extensive researches that animal black may be entirely revivified in closed vessels by ignition with organic matter, which need not be nitrogenous.

A mining engineer, who has spent some time in exploring mines in the north part of Lake superior, reports that the gold discoveries on Lake Shebandowan, of which so much was said a year since, turn out to be of little practical importance. There is gold there, but not enough to pay for working, and the schools rendered agreeable and attractive, there would be no need of compulsory education, since attendance would then be voluntary. No one will dispute the need of the reforms to which our contemporary calls attention, neither is there any doubt that if they were carried into practice the percentage of attendance at our public schools would, in all likelihood, be considerably increased. Unhappily, however, there are very many parents who, no matter how pleasant might be the school-room, nor how admirable the course of instruction, would still fail to compel their children to attend. This is apparent from the fact that, notwithstanding our greatly improved educational incentives and facilities, the mass of ignorance is steadily increasing, the proportion of illiterate adults to the whole population of the country being greater to-day than it was twenty years ago. There is, of course, much to be said on both sides of the subject; still the question remains whether that interest in the morals of its citizens which every State should possess, does not authorize it to take the nascent vagrant or criminal—for crime and ignorance are closely allied—in hand in time to save him, rather than to build prisons for his restraint after he is matured. It is a very important question, and one which is constantly becoming more grave.

THE THIRD BEAST.

Tennessee papers say that the Republican Congressman elect from the Third District of that State is in many respects the most extraordinary member that will take his seat in the Forty-third Congress of the United States. In the first place he is ugly—all great men are. He is very tall, very lean, very much gnarled and quick common sense; and, as to personal courage, Julius Ceaser never had more; and, possibly, Napoleon Bonaparte not quite so much. It was upon this latter point that Davy Crutchfield was brought up sparely and determinedly to Jefferson Davis in 1861 as he was on his way from the United States Senate to the Presidential chair of the Southern Confederacy. Crutchfield, interrupting Davis's speech in Chattanooga, could stand his vile traductings of his personal appearance no longer, denounced him as a traitor and a liar, "If he was the last curse of creation," Davy mildly replied to the insult (as he felt it), Crutchfield drew his repeater, and with the first quick shot left Jefferson or Sydenham, Davis would have been slain. In many respects Crutchfield will be a reproduction of Davy Crockett. He is as plain as an old wagon, as rough a man of large means, he dresses as a laboring mechanic or farmer. He is warm and liberal-hearted, full of good humor—is the central figure of the social group; and what is specially fortunate for his constituents, he means to be, as he is now, thoroughly identified with the great industrial interests of the people.

General W. S. Harney, in the earlier history of the war quite a prominent figure among the military leaders of the time, has for years completely faded out of public sight. It seems that the General is enjoying a green old age at his city residence in St. Louis, and on a place which he has been improving some miles from that city, on the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. He is remembered, it would seem, long remembered, not only in the West but all over the country, for the services which, as a soldier, he has rendered to the government.

Gilbert Munger writes, November seventh, that he is with Bierstadt in the Sierra Nevada, and says: "We work from sunrise to sunset, muffled up to our elbows in furs, for the weather happens to be cold, and we are camping in the snow, sketching snow storms and snow effects."

The "Purple Dey," who is reported to be in command of the Egyptian expeditionary force, is Col. Purdy, son of ex-Lieut-Governor Purdy, of California, one of the American officers now in the Khedive's service.

The physician of Rev. George MacDonald, the English novelist, states in a card that the latter will probably not be able to resume his lecturing tour for two or three months.

There is a story being extensively circulated to the effect that owing to family troubles August Belmont, the well-known banker and late Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, is going to pull up stakes in this country and go abroad to reside permanently.

Notwithstanding all newspaper reports to the contrary, Vice President Wilson is better every day, will neither be a railroad superintendent nor a newspaper editor. He has become a heavy stockholder in some manufacturing interests at South Bend, Indiana, and he signalizes his recovery by his return to private life next spring, to devote his energies and business qualifications entirely to his home interests. And this in the face of an offer which he has lately rejected, of a salary of twelve thousand dollars, to take charge of a commercial interest in one of the larger cities.

The danger of young American ladies allying themselves to bogus counts when they become infatuated with *distingue* foreigners, has been augmented by the late dire consequences which a foreign alliance may entail upon the purses of their papas. New York has now the case of a French son-in-law which will be regarded in the light of a warning to all future entanglements made in the same direction. After January opens, that paper believes, it is reasonable to expect great activity in business, both here and in Europe, under the stimulus of the flood of gold currency, especially in Europe, and bank expansion in this country.

Mount Hood, Oregon, is said to have adopted the reprehensible habit of smoking, and the people of the Northwest are looking for an eruption as its effect.

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The recent failures among the fish merchants of Boston have, it is stated, caused great distress among the poor fishermen of Cape Cod. Many persons have been utterly ruined, and, after toiling all the summer, have not a cent left for their families this winter. Many purchases were made under circumstances of great provocation just on the eve of failures.

In all the new streets of Paris the buildings at the corners are rounded or the angle cut off, so that the sidewalks are curved, thus facilitating locomotion and avoiding the many accidents caused by turning around sharp angles. Boston thinks of adopting this plan in laying out her streets anew.

The lady members of one of the leading churches of Nashville, Tennessee, have resolved to dispense with all finery on Sunday—wearing no jewels but consistency—and will hereafter appear at church in calico dresses.

The "best man" at a late fashionable New York wedding made a funny blunder. When it became his duty to hand the officiating clergyman his fee, our friend, from some peculiar confusion of ideas, pressed the money into the hand of one of the guests, murmured an acknowledgement and fled before the astonished gentleman could say a word.

The Boston *Transcript*, which suffered so materially by the great conflagration, will soon reappear in full and even increased vigor—new presses, new type, new material of every character, and with all the improvements mechanically and typographically which experience and ingenuity can suggest.

The Boston *Traveller* charges that the men who said the city would be disgraced by the acceptance of aid for its poor from other cities, have not yet contributed the sum required to prevent such disgrace.

Who, after this, shall say the Chinese are not a progressive people? The government has issued two proclamations—one forbidding Chinese landlords to charge extra rent for rooms or houses on account of the birth of children in them, and the other prohibiting under severe penalties the murdering of new-born babes.

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THE CIVIL SERVICE RULE in relation to the Post Office Department possesses new interest since the action in the Philadelphia case. Here it is:

"In the case of the office of postmaster of cities having, according to the census of 1870, a population of twenty thousand or more, the Postmaster General shall ascertain if any of the subordinates in such office are suitable persons qualified to perform the duties of postmaster, and, if such one be found, he shall certify to the President the name or names of those subordinates, together with the grades, pay, &c., in his judgment, are best qualified for the position, from which list the President will make a nomination to fill the vacancy. But if no such subordinate be found so qualified, or if the nomination be not confirmed at the discretion of the President.

ONE place to which the news of the re-election of Grant came with an unwelcome import was Utah. The Mormons did not like it and the Gentiles did. Brigham at the last Conference spoke dolorously of the continued "church and state" and the people soundly for not supporting that religious establishment through which is maintained his autocratic rule. He talked of building a new town "on the order of Enoch, where one commands and the rest obey," in some region where no laws or bayonets could reach him; which sounds as if he had at last became convinced that there was such a thing as Federal power in the United States.

The scientists are now speculating upon "the great November atmospheric wave," which, like every annual recurrence, long suspected, is said to have been established by the meteoric observations of the signal service. Some account of this November atmospheric wave was given as long ago as 1763, when, according to Defoe, the air was seen "full of meteors and vaporous fires." The "vaporous fires" of that day, at least, seem in place, this year at least, to an atmosphere of icicles.

One G. T. Franklin advertises to launch an air ship at Peoria, Illinois, in the spring. It is to be cigar-shaped, thirty feet in diameter and one hundred feet long, and will contain fifty-seven thousand cubic feet of gas, beside what will ride in the cabin. The enthusiast says: "Once afoat, and the machinery in working order, I shall endeavor to reach some given point on the Atlantic coast, and in the event of failure, I shall only touch the earth long enough to repair the defect and resume my course."

THE Philadelphia *Ledger* thinks enough is known of the administration policy to render it certain that it will favor bank if not currency expansion, which is the most powerful agency that can be made specific interest at the rate of two a week.

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